

I CLAIM:

1. A surgical instrument for treatment of female urinary incontinence, the surgical instrument comprising:
 - 5 a) a curved needle-like element having a first and a second end, each of the first and second ends of the curved needle like element having an eye therethrough; and
 - b) a handle having a first and second end, the first end having a gripping mechanism attached thereto for enabling a person to hold and manipulate the handle, the second end of the handle having a coupling means for releaseably securing the first end of the curved needle-like element to the handle;
15 wherein a tape to be implanted into a female body as a loop around urethra is passed through one of the eyes in the curved needle like element and subsequently drawn into the body thereby implanting the tape within the body.
- 20 2. The surgical instrument according to claim 1, wherein the curved needle-like element is manufactured from a material resistant to standard sterilisation techniques.
- 25 3. The surgical instrument according to claim 1, wherein the first end of the needle-like element comprises two opposite planar surfaces surrounding the eye at the first end.
4. The surgical instrument according to claim 1, wherein the first end of the needle-like element further comprises protrusions providing a means for secure connection between the needle-like element and the coupling means.
- 30 5. The surgical instrument according to claim 1, wherein the eyes at the first and second end have a cross section shape selected from the group comprising circle, ellipse, slot and elongated slot.

6. The surgical instrument according to claim 1, wherein the gripping mechanism comprises two portions projecting in a common plane from opposite sides of the handle.
- 5 7. The surgical instrument according to claim 1, wherein the curved needle-like element bends in a plane parallel to the common plane.
8. The surgical instrument according to claim 1, wherein the curved needle-like element bends in a plane perpendicular to the common plane.
- 10 9. The surgical instrument according to claim 1, wherein the coupling means is a chuck.
- 15 10. The surgical instrument according to claim 1, where the coupling means comprises at least two jaws for frictional interconnection with the curved needle-like element.
11. The surgical instrument according to claim 6, wherein the coupling means further comprises a biasing means thereby providing ease of insertion and removal of the curved needle-like element from the coupling means.
- 20 12. Use of the surgical instrument according to claim 1 for treatment of female urinary incontinence.